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Shelter-In-Place Issued For Texas City Explosion

No Injuries Reported

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TEXAS CITY, Texas -- An explosion and fire broke out at a Texas City refinery Thursday evening, frightening nearby residents who vividly remember the blast in March that killed more than a dozen workers, Local 2 reported. More than 90 minutes after the blast happened, a shelter-in-place order was issued for residents near the plant.

The blast occurred at the **BP Texas City Refinery** shortly after 6 p.m.

Officials said the explosion happened at the resid hydrotreating unit. The cause is not yet known.

"There was a boom after the sirens went off -- a large explosion. It did shake our neighbor's house, my house and the surrounding houses. It was strong enough to where you could feel it and hear it, but it wasn't as strong as the one in March," said a witness who lives two blocks from the plant.

"Compared to the last explosion we had here in Texas City, it was much more milder," resident Larry Johnson said.

Officials told Local 2 that a shelter-in-place order was issued at about 7:30 p.m. because of a shift in wind direction.

"Air monitoring along the facility fence line shows no indications of harmful substances. However, a visible cloud may contain H₂S, and residents are being asked to shelter in place as a precaution," a news release said.

Plant officials said all their employees were accounted for and there were no injuries.

Shelter-In-Place Order

When a shelter-in-place is issued, residents should:

- Go inside
- Shut all doors and windows
- Turn off air conditioners and heaters to prevent outside air from getting inside
- Stay off the phone
- Do not use fireplaces. Put out fires and close all dampers.
- Move to a room with the fewest windows and doors. Tape around doors, windows, exhaust fans and vents using plastic sheeting or garbage bags, if directed.
- Turn on the radio or television to listen for further instructions

Families are advised to have the following items in a shelter-in-place kit:

- Two rolls of duct tape
- Cloth and paper towels
- Plastic sheets or trash bags
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Battery-powered radio
- Two gallons of water



- Nonperishable foods

If your eyes, nose or throat become irritated, protect your breathing by covering your mouth with a damp cloth, take frequent shallow breaths and stay calm.

On March 23, 15 workers were killed and more than 170 were injured when several blasts happened in a unit that boosts the octane level of gasoline.

Watch Local 2 at 10 for complete coverage.

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